

Subject: British Colonial coins;  
Countermarked coins of the  
West Indies

Messenger, L.J.P.  
[London, England]

1919

151 Brecknock Road  
Tufnell Park  
London NW  
England

21 March 1919

Dear Sir

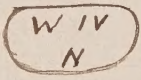
As a collector of  
British Colonial coins I have read  
with great interest your paper on  
the cut & countermarked coins for  
the West Indies in the American  
Journal of Numismatics.

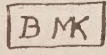
I have in my collection  
one or two pieces which appear to  
be unpublished and thought you  
might like to have particulars of  
these. Overleaf I have described  
the coins in detail.

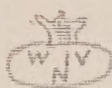
Yours faithfully  
L F Messenger

<sup>PS</sup> I am a Fellow of the  
Royal Numismatic Society

1 decime of the French Rep. date  
not visible. This is countermarked  
with three fleur de lys. These are  
smaller + more compact than on the  
St. Martin piece

= George III halfpenny 1806. countermarked  
incuse, a small crown with   
under ? Never

= U.S.A cent 1824 - in an oblong  
indent, letters in relief 

like this 

I have also a small Spanish  
billon coin dated 1688 countermarked  
with SK. (St. Kitts)



April 3rd, 1919.

Mr. L. J. P. Messenger,  
151 Brecknock Road,  
Tufnell Park,  
London, N.W., England.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of March 21st at hand, and I am very glad that you have been interested in my account of West Indian Coins. I wish that I had the opportunity to see more specimens and been able to have gone into original documents. When I compiled this list I excluded a great many counterstamped pieces that did not seem to meet with the proper requirements. The Fleur-de-Lys countermark in several forms was used in France quite extensively to legitimize at various times certain worn out coins that were in circulation. A peculiar looking Fleur-de-Lys was used by one of the sub-treasuries in this country as a cancellation stamp on money that was brought in to them to redeem and which the sub-treasury would not accept. Undoubtedly the fleur-de-lys was used as a counterstamp in the West Indies in a number of instances that had not been recorded. Consequently I am at a loss to tell you exactly whether your three fleur-de-lys have much of any significance or not.

Your George III half penny with <sup>W</sup>~~N~~<sup>IV</sup> crowned strikes me as being an official mark, and I think that it may be for Nevis without doubt. As far as I know Nevis counterstamped certain silver and the billon sous, consequently if they stamped larger copper pieces they might use a different mark.

The United States cent stamped B M K I do not consider having any significance. We find great quantities of the old cents as in England there are found numbers of half pennies with various initials stamped on them. A great proportion of these have no significance or official use, being done by private people for no especial reason or for minor reasons unknown today.



Your Spanish billon coin stamped S K, I consider a scarce piece as I have never seen this SK stamp except on the billon sous, though I have heard it has been found on other types of coins.

I beg to thank you for the interest you have taken in the subject, and if you find other varieties I would be glad to have you let me know, also how much interested are you in West Indian coins. To me it is a very facinating subject.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

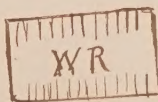
151 Brecknock Road  
Tufnell Park  
London N

6<sup>th</sup> May 1919

Dear Sir—

Please accept my best thanks for your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ulto & for the information contained therein. I agree that these countermarked pieces are of unusual interest & I am always on the look out for new varieties. Since writing to you I have acquired the following:—

A George III broad rim penny countermarked WR in relief within an oblong incuse. The incuse has projecting points, directed inwards.



I rather think this belongs to  
the West Indies. I already possess  
a George III  $\frac{1}{2}$  with the countermark  
WR under a crown for Sierra Leone  
also  $\frac{1}{2}$  countermarked IB. I do  
not think the latter is of any  
special significance.

My friend, M<sup>r</sup> Henry Garside,  
has described one or two unpublished  
pieces in his own collection, in the  
current no of Spinks Circular.

Yours very truly  
Edw Lloyd Messenger